

Dominion of Canada for the erection of the structure shall have been obtained.

SEC. 2. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Amendment.

Approved, March 18, 1924.

**CHAP. 68.**—An Act Granting the consent of Congress for the construction of a bridge across the Saint John River between Fort Kent, Maine, and Clairs, Province of New Brunswick, Canada.

March 18, 1924.

[H. R. 5348.]

[Public, No. 55.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the consent of Congress is hereby granted for the construction, maintenance, and operation by the State of Maine and the Dominion of Canada, jointly, of a bridge to be erected across the Saint John River, at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, between Fort Kent, Maine, and Clairs, Province of New Brunswick, Canada, in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters," approved March 23, 1906: *Provided,* That the construction of said bridge shall not be commenced until the consent of the proper authorities of the Dominion of Canada for the erection of the structure shall have been obtained.

Saint John River. Maine and Canada may bridge, Fort Kent, Me., to Clairs, New Brunswick.

Construction.  
Vol. 34, p. 84.

*Proviso.*  
Consent of Canada required.

Amendment.

SEC. 2. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, March 18, 1924.

**CHAP. 69.**—An Act Authorizing the construction of a bridge across the Ohio River to connect the city of Benwood, West Virginia, and the city of Bellaire, Ohio.

March 18, 1924.

[H. R. 5624.]

[Public, No. 56.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Interstate Bridge Company, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Ohio, its successors and assigns, is hereby authorized to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Ohio River, at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, to and into the city of Benwood, Union District, county of Marshall, in the State of West Virginia, from the central part of the city of Bellaire, county of Belmont, in the State of Ohio, in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters," approved March 23, 1906.

Ohio River. Bridge Company may bridge, Benwood, W. Va., to Bellaire, Ohio.

Construction.  
Vol. 34, p. 84.

Amendment.

SEC. 2. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, March 18, 1924.

**CHAP. 70.**—An Act Conferring jurisdiction upon the Court of Claims to hear, examine, adjudicate, and enter judgment in any claims which the Cherokee Indians may have against the United States, and for other purposes.

March 19, 1924.

[H. R. 4457.]

[Public, No. 57.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That jurisdiction be, and is hereby, conferred upon the Court of Claims, notwithstanding the lapse of time or statutes of limitation, to hear, examine, and adjudicate and render judgment in any and all legal and equitable claims arising under or growing out of any treaty or agreement

Cherokee Indians. Claims of, against United States to be adjudicated by Court of Claims.

between the United States and the Cherokee Indian Nation or Tribe, or arising under or growing out of any Act of Congress in relation to Indian affairs, which said Cherokee Nation or Tribe may have against the United States, which claims have not heretofore been determined and adjudicated on their merits by the Court of Claims or the Supreme Court of the United States.

Time for filing.

SEC. 2. Any and all claims against the United States within the purview of this Act shall be forever barred unless suit be instituted or petition filed as herein provided in the Court of Claims within five years from the date of approval of this Act, and such suit shall make the Cherokee Nation party plaintiff and the United States party defendant. The petition shall be verified by the attorney or attorneys employed to prosecute such claim or claims under contract with the Cherokees approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior; and said contract shall be executed in their behalf by a committee chosen by them under the direction and approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior. Official letters, papers, documents, and records, or certified copies thereof, may be used in evidence, and the departments of the Government shall give access to the attorney or attorneys of said Indian nation to such treaties, papers, correspondence, or records as may be needed by the attorney or attorneys of said Indian nation.

Procedure.

Evidence admitted.

Counterclaims.

SEC. 3. In said suit the court shall also hear, examine, consider, and adjudicate any claims which the United States may have against said Indian nation, but any payment which may have been made by the United States upon any claim against the United States shall not operate as an estoppel, but may be pleaded as an offset in such suit.

Appeal to Supreme Court.

SEC. 4. That from the decision of the Court of Claims in any suit prosecuted under the authority of this Act, an appeal may be taken by either party as in other cases to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Attorney's fees, etc., by court decree.

SEC. 5. That upon the final determination of any suit instituted under this Act, the Court of Claims shall decree such amount or amounts as it may find reasonable to be paid the attorney or attorneys so employed by said Indian nation for the services and expenses of said attorneys rendered or incurred prior or subsequent to the date of approval of this Act: *Provided*, That in no case shall the aggregate amounts decreed by said Court of Claims for fees be in excess of the amount or amounts stipulated in the contract of employment, or in excess of a sum equal to 10 per centum of the amount of recovery against the United States.

*Proviso.*  
Limitation.

Issue of orders and process.

SEC. 6. The Court of Claims shall have full authority by proper orders and process to bring in and make parties to such suit any or all persons deemed by it necessary or proper to the final determination of the matters in controversy.

Appearance of Attorney General directed.

SEC. 7. A copy of the petition shall, in such case, be served upon the Attorney General of the United States, and he, or some attorney from the Department of Justice to be designated by him, is hereby directed to appear and defend the interests of the United States in such case.

Approved, March 19, 1924.

March 21, 1924.  
[H. R. 5633.]  
[Public, No. 58.]

**CHAP. 71.**—An Act Granting the consent of Congress to the board of supervisors of Hinds County, Mississippi, to construct a bridge across the Pearl River in the State of Mississippi.

Pearl River.  
Hinds County, Miss.,  
may bridge, Jackson.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the consent of Congress is hereby granted to the board of supervisors of Hinds